

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to an Office Action mailed September 28, 2006. In the Office Action, claims 12, 14-15, 22-23 and 34-37 have been allowed. Claims 27, 32 and 39 have been objected and claims 24-26, 28-31, 33, 38 and 40 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103. The Examiner is thanked for the thorough examination and Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the claims based on the arguments set forth herein.

Allowance of Claims 12, 14-15, 22-23 and 34-37

Claims 12, 14-15, 22-23 and 34-37 are currently in condition for allowance. No amendments of these claims have been made in this Amendment.

Objected Claims

Applicants respectfully acknowledge that the Examiner concurs that claims 27, 32 and 39 contain patentable subject. Claims 24, 30 and 38 have been amended to include the limitations of objected claims 27, 32 and 39, respectfully. As a result, claims 27, 32 and 39 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the objection and allow claims 24, 30 and 38 as well as those claims dependent thereon.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 24-26, 28-31, 33, 38 and 40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being rendered unpatentable by Chuah (U.S. Patent 6,115,390), in view of Miller, et al. (U.S. Patent 6,873,627). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection because a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established. However, since independent claims 24, 30 and 38 have been amended to include limitations of objected claims 27, 32 and 39, Applicants respectfully submit that the outstanding §103(a) rejection has been traversed.

Withdrawal of the §103(a) rejection as applied to claims 24-26, 28-29, 31, 33 and 40 is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request issuance of a Notice of Allowance for pending claims 12, 14-15 and 22-26, 28-31, 33-38 and 40.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: February 28, 2007


Susan McFarlane

February 28, 2007

Date